

# A PEST OF HUMANITY

### The Epidemic of Fleas Which Has Attacked Washington.

HABITS OF PULEX IRRITANS.

A Scientist's Opinion of the Jumping Riter

IF MODERN SCIENCE HAD ONLY DE-voted itself to studying the flea with a little of that assiduity displayed by the flea in his or her physiological researches there would not be in Washington today a thousand speckled remnants of profane humanity intent on destroying every available specimen of that agile and prolific torment known to entomologists as pulex irritans. There are some entomologists who have tried to place themselves en rapport, as it were, with the situation, but these are very rare. The average student of bugology gloats tirelessly over the form of an insect which never troubled civilization and goes into uncontrollable raptures when in possession of a cockroach that died when Rameses was running an anti-straw brick yard with slave labor, but he never troubles himself about that nervously acrobatic product which will, unless the remedy is speedily applied, feast luxuriously upon those distinguished divines who will compose the declicity in the bar the Methodist ecumenical conference. Now, Prof. Leland O. Howard of the Agricultural Department loves a strange bug with all the warmth of his enthusiastic nature, but he is not narrow-minded and does not regard the flea as beneath his notice, so he consequently



ossesses interesting information about those ancing dervishes of the insect world. This is somewhat strange, for nearly all the flea literature in circulation now is from tifty to seventyfive years old, and in the period that has elapsed since the last standard work on this moving subject appeared the character and physical nature of the flea have undergone many of those changes necessarily consequent upon new associations and climatic eccentri-

CAUSE OF THE FLEA EPIDEMIC.

"The extraordinary abundance of fleas," said Prof. Howard to a STAR reporter, "is, I have no doubt, due to the extremely wet weather which has been such a marked feature in the meteorology of 1891. You may recollect that in 1889 there was also an excess of moisture and an overplus of fleas. There can be no question but that fleas develop more rapidly when there is humidity and heat than at times when the weather is dry and cool, and to this fact we

must look for any reasonable explanation as to the invasion most of us have suffered from. Fleas lay their eggs in the dust in floor cracks, and, if that dust happens to be damp and warm, the larve become fleas with surprising rapidity. Each female flea lays from fifteen to twenty eggs, and in about three weeks these eggs, or the active principle in each, goes through the intermediate stages to full fleahood. Now, suppose a couple of ordinarily active fleas—a male and female—should start to raise a family in the house your family vacated when it was time to go to the seashore or the mountains. The processes would not be interrupted by sweeping or other household disturbances of a hygienic nature, and in three weeks a score of full-grown fleas would be practicing 'standing broad' jumps on your carpet or matting. The broad' jumps on your carpet or matting. The next brood would be as large proportionately, and when the third generation came around it would be numerous enough and vicious enough

would be numerous enough and vicious enough to disturb the equanimity of a Job.

"Would be a good thing to destroy the eggs? Certainly! If the eggs were smashed there could not possibly be any fleas. Did you ever see a flea egg? No? Well, so that you may be able to recognize one should you find one in your boudoir let me say that a flea egg is about one forty-fifth of an inch-long, oval-cylindrical in shape and white in color.

"Does the flea hatch directly from the egg? No. The first product is a worm-like grub

first product is a worm-like grub about six-hundredths of an inch in length. Each grub is composed of thirteen distinct segments—here is a picture of one—and has—" "Whiskers," suggested the reporter, looking at the capillary adornments of the grub in the

The professor explained that hairs were not necessarily whiskers, and then went on to state that the grubs were very active, twisting about in all directions. When full grown the worm was about one-eighth of an inch long. Before it outgrew the "grub" stage, however, it spun a little cocoon, and in this shelter it underwent



Most of the fleas I have seen this summe were either cat or dog fleas, and while their

say that they adapted themselves to the changed diet and conditions without any evident em-



enough for all practical purposes. The largest British species will be found on that noiseless little animal, the mole, but these fleas are smaller than the flea which derives its support

Why are fleas always more numerous in bed why are fleas always more numerous in bed rooms than eisewhere? Now you do not really know that that is so because you are, as a rule, better protected when in the lower rooms and cannot, therefore, tell whether there are many fleas on your garments or not, but even if it is so it can easily be explained. You have been picking up fleas all day long and when you dispote at night the fleas miss you. Becoming ware of the fact that you are not in your

clothes they drop off to the floor. The females proceed to lay a few eggs and then, that solemn duty having been performed, they follow the males in a hunt for the owner of the deserted garments. It is not absolutely necessary for the reproduction of the flea species that adult fleas should have any food at all, but the chances are that the number of those who go hungry is exceedingly small; I would so judge because of the complaints we have received from flea-bitten mortality. When the insects do feed they always select a warm-blooded animal to operate upon. The irritation which fol-lows the bite is testimony to the effect that the A Scientist's Opinion of the Jumping Biters and the Best Means of Getting Rid of Them—Where They Most Do Congregate—How the Fleas Multiply—Ineffectual Schemes.

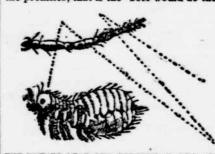
> HOW TO RID A HOUSE OF THEM. "How can you rid a flea-infested house of the vice is to throw the house open from top to bottom. Get a big atomizer—a bellows built for such work—and spray every inch of the floors with benzine; use it on the rugs and carpets thoroughly. Then let the fresh air



than daylight in the house for several hours after the spraying is over, for the benzine is peculiarly and dangerously inflammable after being atomized. The odor may remain for some little time, but the fleas are gone. They will not literally have taken their departure, but they will be dead; likewise the larvæ. And the eggs? Well, they will be spoiled sufficiently to admit of their use as tributes to Jas. Owen O'Connor's tragic abilities.

ANOTHER REMEDY. "Some people cannot use the benzine-the dor makes them sick—so to these I would recommend the use of the California-grown buhach; it is fresh. Foreign powders lose much of their vitality during an ocean voy-age. A sufficiency of buhach, properly puffed around, will discourage any combination of fleas. The powder will not kill immediately— the insects may be from twelve to fifteen hours dying—but it generally gets there. Give the strongest flea one whiff of buhach and he is a strongest hea one whist of buhach and he is a victim of "that tired feeling;" he is quite willing to be swept out with the powder. Yes, I think we will make a specialty of fleas before next summer. If we do we will give to the public a voiume that cannot fail to be infinitely more popular than the famous 'horse book.' Not more than five per cent of the human race own horses; everybody has a personal interest in fleas."

orally and through the public press. Some of these remedies were all right under certain circumstances, but they could not be mad universal in their application. One ingeniou mortal who may or may not have had an inter-est in booming somebody's fly paper said that a piece of beef laid in the center of a sticky fly paper would attract nine-tenths of the fleas on the premises; that is the beef would do the at-



THE UPWARD LEAP AND POSITION OF LEG AFTER tracting while the mucilage managed the rest Several sufferers tried the scheme and a few of the crowd reported results. In no instance on

record did any one catch more than two fleas and the capture of these was explained by showing that the fleas were following the barefooted experimenter across the floor when they landed on the gum-smeared sheet. In another case a hot-tempered Pennsylvania avenue metchant was so interested that he arose during the night to examine the paper. While moving in the direction of a gas jet he stepped on the trap and in response to a vigorous kick moving in the direction of a gas jet he stepped on the trap and in response to a vigorous kick for freedom half a pound of raw steak smeared itself all over a cheval mirror, and, after upsetting a bottle of cologne, slid into an open drawer on top of a clean dress shirt. Not a flea was damaged, but when the disgusted man's wife had scraped the paper off the disgusted man's foot she had to go over his anatomy with a whisk broom before he was flealess enough to return to bed.

Even had the beef and fly paper combination been successful it could only be used to a lim-

been successful it could only be used to a limited extent. Many a chorus girl in the theaters would have given a week's salary for a chance to scratch one out of seven or eight itching places beneath the tights she wore. What

would beef and fly paper avail under such cirit outgrew the "grub" stage, however, it spun a little cocoon, and in this shelter it underwent the transformation which made it such a formidable enemy to the peace of mankind and animals. Occasionally a flea would graduate, as it were, without the aid of the cocoon, but such cases were rare.

VARIETIES OF THE PEST.

"How many varieties of flea are there?" repeated the professor. "There are a great many species: The human flea, the dog flea, the cat flea, the chicken flea, the mouse flea, the bat flea and the squirrel flea, to say nothing of those fleas which find shelter and subsistence on the bodies of wild animals.

### DESOLATION.

A Spot More Deserted Than the Disu Swamp of Virginia.

"At last we are alone!" It was the man who spoke.

The women trembled and lifted her eyes They were beautiful eyes, but they tremulous eyes; eyes which look out from

neart which is irresolute, fearful. He stamped with his heavy foot door of the room. The echoes brought back in their invisible arms the sound and let it ripple out again until

t struck the walls once more and fell into the vast void of silence. A bat, disturbed by the unusual activity darted from a corner and blindly dashed in

ecentric convolutions about the dusty buildng.
Great ropes of cobwebs hung down from the ceiling, and across the corner of the room dead dies swung lightly in the hammocks the spider

had fastened there.

The dust rose in listless clouds from the shoc of the neavy footfall, and mak again, overcom by its own inertia.

Even the air was resting.

The spirit of the desolation of desolation seemed to pervade the place.

The woman looked furtively around upon h dim surroundings and shivered.

"Yes," she murmured.
A faint light struggled in through the gre windows in front, thick with dust.

"Where are we?" she whispered and shivered as the bat dashed into her hair.

"Listen," he replied boarsely, "we are in a store which does not advertise."

Boston Girl (with enthusiasm)—"What is your opinion of Ibsen, Mr. Cahokia? Isn't he grand, wonderful, sublime?"

St. Louis Young Man (taken at some disadvantage, but rallying in good shape)—"He's a corker, Miss Howjames. What—or—club's he pitching for now?"—Chicago Tribuns.

Their Religion and Their Beauty-Love Making and Marriage—Control by Priests.

Written for The Evening Star.

THE LIVES OF WOMEN IN SOUTH AMERican countries are about as different from those of their sex in the United States as can well be imagined. To begin with a girl has no liberty at all until she is married. She cannot go out unless accompanied by a responsible relative or by an attendant. If she goes shopping in the family carriage, the goods are servant, who carries a small prayer rug. as she must kneel for worship on stone floor, which is usually damp as well as cold. Even after she has become pests? Oh, there are lots of recipes. My ad- a wife her movements are hardly less watched and restricted, the theory among these people being that a woman is under no circumstances to be trusted alone. It must be said, however, that in the Argentine, which is a progressive nation, things are very different in this regard. There ladies, single or otherwise, have much more freedom. Whereas in the other republics they grow up in ignorance, save for a few accomplishments, such as music and embroidery, in Buenos Ayres and the country of which it is the capital they are well educated, being tanght by governosses up to the age of eleven taught by governesses up to the age of eleven or twelve, when they are sent to Europe to be "finished." Thousands of them are dis-patched every year for this purpose to Paris, Bordeaux, Marseilles and other cities in France where there are great boarding schools. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.

Those who have visited South America assert that the women of Buenos Avres Montevideo and Santiago are incomparably the most beautiful in the world. The well educated among them speak French and English as well as Spanish, and are fine musicians. They follow the latest Parisian fashions, and the gowns of those who are well-to-do are all brought over from France. There are no better dressed women anywhere than are to be found all over women anywhere than are to be found all over South America. All their outfitting is imported from abroad, even to the silk stockings which are considered among the necessaries of the toilet. No such market exists elsewhere for elaborate and costly underciothing. Although the women have very small feet, they wear the highest-heeled French shoes to make wear the highest-heeled French shoes to make they are now more than They leave also and the them seem more tiny. They lace also, and the use of paints for the complexion is unfortu-nately prevalent. Their beauty is touched with the darkness of the Moor, and, alas! it a third is expected to wash the things. You fades early. At fifteen years they are of marriageable age and before they are thirty they have lost their good looks nearly always. From that time on they grow fat in a motherly way. Jewelry, and plenty of it, is always a passion with them. A voluptuous style of lovelision with them. A voluptuous style of loveliness is most in demand, and blondes are greatly admired on account of their rarity. For some reason unexplained the Yankee schoolmistresses who have charge of most of Italians and other foreigners are employed in the Argentine are, as a rule, of light hair and convolving and it is said that

LOVE MAKING UNDER DIFFICULTIES. Love making in South America must all be done in the presence of the girl's family. At all events, in the absence of an immediate relative a duenna or attendant must always be on hand to do the proper. If a young woman were left alone with a man for as much as two minutes her reputation would be gone. When a man goes to call he never asks for the lady; it would be considered a mortal insult, suggest-ing an assignation. So what he does is to send his card to papa, and if the latter is not at home he leaves his compliments for the lady or daughter. A few years ago the United States minister to Venezuela was an eccentric old gentleman from South Carolina, odd in his ways and even grotesque in his manners. A young loafer about the legation wrote a letter to a newspaper ridiculing his pomfound forter about the legation wrote a letter to a newspaper ridiculing his pomposity, upon which the old fellow issued a ukase to the American colony commanding that none of its members. should any more receive socially the offending youth. Nevertheless, a lady of Yankee birth, whose husband was a Venezuelan, invited the young man to dinner. The minister at once went to see her for the purpose of protesting. She got angry, but the wrath of her spouse at this infraction of etiquette knew no bounds. He sought the minister with a shotgun and would have killed him on sight had it not been for the interference of a good-natured Irish-American named Patrick McGarry, who called himself Senor Patricio Magarrie. The offendhimself Senor Patricio Magarrie. The offend-ing diplomat was obliged to make the most elaborate apologies, which the Spaniard printed in full, together with all the correspondence on the subject, not only in the newspapers, but on large posters, pasted up on every dead wall in the city, adding some very pointed comments on the liberties of behavior permitted in the United States.

MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS. All the love making must be carried on through a third person. If a youth desires to marry he does not speak of it to the girl whom he wishes for a wife, but to his own father. The latter, if he approves, goes to the father of the young lady and the two discuss the matter together. Each tells the other what he will do for the young folks and between them a contract is drawn up respecting settlements and all such things. The intending bride-groom is not permitted to see his fiancee alone for a moment before the wedding. As soon as that event has taken place there is a wed-ding breakfast, and usually without the formal-tiv of a preliminary tour the complexestle. ding breakfast, and usually without the formality of a preliminary tour the couple settles down to living either in an establishment of their own or more often in the house of the parents of the bride or the groom. One drawback about marriage in South America is that in taking a girl to wife it is apt to be considered a matter of course that the young man marries her whole family also. He has no occasion for surprise or diagruntlement, if, together with his bride, fifteen or twenty people come to share his household and domestic comforts, including all her available relatives and their servants. These Latins are a very clannish race and a father is apt to be willing to adopt a raft of sisters and cousins and aunts, not to mention a mother-in-law, rather than have his mention a mother-in-law, rather than have his son or daughter leave the family roof. It is due to the strength of family attachments among them that hotels in South America are only for strangers from afar; the natives

always find hospitable entertainment among their kindred.

It is a peremptory rule that a marriage must always be announced a long time in advance. A short engagement would be considered scandalous. On the night before the wedding it is customary for the bride to go to a church dedicated to Saint Mercedes, there to receive the sacrament, after confessing and being absolved from her sins. It is best that she should go thither in her bridal dross, which is blessed by the priests and sprinkled with holy water. A pretty custom often followed is for the young woman's girl friends to sprinkle the bridal bed with roses. Invariably the marriage ceremony is solemnized in the evening and usually it is followed with dancing, singing, wine drinking followed with dancing, singing, wine drinking

and an uproarious time generally. ST. MERCEDES DAY. The St. Mercedes referred to is the patrone

of maidens, and on her day each year all the girls assemble in church to receive the sacra-

girls assemble in church to receive the sacrament. On this occasion they write their wishes on pieces of paper, inclose them in envelopes and drop them into a box provided in the sacred edilice for that purpose. The priests open the envelopes and give the inclosures to the parents of the young ladies, who grant the wishes or not, as they see fit.

On their way to and from church every day the virgins with their attendants must run the ganutlet of the dudes. No more howing swells than these latter are to be found anywhere in the world. They are mostly the sons of rich planters or ranch owners and the fashions they affect are the most advanced possible. It is from Paris, however, and not from London, that they get their styles. The "gommeux" of the boulevards are their models. "Lagartigos" they are called, because, like lizards on a rock, they sus themselves on street corners and in front of hotels, exchanging audible remarks upon the young women who pass by. On seeing a maiden walk modestly past, prayer book in mend and with eves cast down, one says half aloud: "What soulful eyes she has!" Another

romen in South America are guarded it does not appear that their morals are exceptionally female culprit is wholly guilty, since he would ments for not have sinned without her assent. A Spaniard and gold. will kill his wife, perhaps, if he discovers that she is unfaithful, and the not is usually con-sidered justifiable; but he may at the same brought out by clerks to the sidewalk and exhibited to her for choosing. Every morning she goes to church, followed by a female cachemire, with a white shawl over the head servant, who carries a small prayer rug. and covering the face. This costume is called the 'manda' or vow. One sees such penitents as she must kneel for worship on not infrequently in churches, where the white-

robed figures come in and kneel silently, looking very picturesque.

Women do all the religion in South America. Of the men it may fairly be said that they believe in nothing. If they had their way the priests would all be driven out of the country, but the latter are too strong for them, backed as they are by petticoat faith and influence. Nevertheless the control of the priesthood in these republics, which was formerly well-nigh absolute, has been to a great extent done away with. Ecuador still remains practically a colony of the pope's. Both it and Bolivia are ruled wholly from the Vatican and the clergy run everything, governing and making the run everything, governing and making the laws. All creeds save the Roman Catholic are laws. All creeds save the Roman Catholic are excluded from the country, and a legal enactment forbids the importation of any book without the sanction of the Society of Jesus. Not long ago any Chitian lady who chose to marry a Protestant was obliged to subscribe \$200 to an asylum for fallen women, as if she partook of their disgrace. Twenty-five dollars being charged for a marriage—a very large sum for a poor man to save—the lower classes have usually dispensed with any ceremony, contenting themselves with the condition of concubinage. It is reckoned today that 75 per cent of the children born in Ecuador are illegitimate.

THE WEALTHY ARE OF IDLE HABITS. South American women of the upper class are, as a rule, of idle habits. When not at church, where they spend a large part of their time, they gossip, read French novels, fan themselves and eat candy. They are great con-Each one has something in particular to do and will not do anything else. One sets the table, but another must clear away the dishes, while a third is expected to wash the things. You entire family as a matter of course. On the other hand, wages are very low, and the hirelings eat little. Two cents a day will supply other hand, wages are very low, and the hire-lings eat little. Two cents a day will supply one with enough fried bananas and cakes of of life. ground corn, called tortillas, to live upon. For such domestic service the native Indians are while the flea plague was at its height—and there be those who insist that it has not yet subsided—numerous remedies were suggested.

In all and complexion, and it is said that it has not yet subsided—numerous remedies were suggested.

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In all and complexion, and it is said that it is said that it has not the number of offers of marriage they have is well-nigh tabulous. Strange to say, a majority of them exhibit no inclination to wed the spanish done, apparently preferring their industry keeps a French cook. A curious custom in these countries is for all the servants to be present at most formal dinners, perhaps to the number of a score or more, all dressed in their best bid and tucker and looking on merely for the purpose of enjoying the fun and listening to the countries is for all the servants to be present at most formal dinners, perhaps to the number of a score or more, all dressed in their best bid and tucker and looking on merely for the purpose of enjoying the fun and listening to the countries is for all the servants to be present at most formal dinners, perhaps to the number of a score or more, all dressed in their best bid and tucker and looking on merely for the purpose of enjoying the fun and listening to the countries is for all the servants to be present at most formal dinners, perhaps to the number of a function that the number of offers of marriage they have is a French cook. A curious custom in these well-nigh tableous. Strange to say, a majority of them exhibit no inclination to wed the solutions.

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MILLIONAIRES PLENTY.

In South America one is struck with the fact that pretty nearly everybody seems to have plenty of money to spend. The very beggar who asks one for alms upon the highway rides horseback, wears a top hat and carries a silk umbreila. When two mendicants meet they exchange the most elaborate salutations, each one saying to the other, "Senor, my possessions are all at your disposal." They merely beg for a living because they are too lazy to gather for themselves the necessaries which try of millionaires, who are as plentiful in Rio and Montevideo as blackberries on a bush. Throughout the Argentine are scattered great Throughout the Argentine are scattered great baronial estates, owned by rich planters and breeders of horses and cattle. A typical one is the Estancia Tay-tay, fifty miles from Buenos Ayres. The distance is nine leagues from the entrance to the estate to the family mansion, and it takes all day to ride across the property, which includes 200,000 acres. The owner is an American named Pierson, who acquired the whole business together with the hand of an Argentine lady. In Brazil the wealthy men are mostly coffee planters, but all the large fortunes in that country have come originally from slaves, being handed down from proprietors of ordeners in such human chatteis. South America is undoubtedly the place could read and write in that tongue. In the Argentine there are millions of acres unoccupied, the climate is delightful, there are no cold winters and cattle will live without housing all the year around. If commerce be preferred to raising beasts a few thousand dollars judiciously invested in Yankee products, which are wanted down there, will quickly multiply themselves. Only a short time ago an enterprising Philadelphán thought of taking a cargo of ordinary kitchen cook stoves to Buenos Ayres. They went off like hot cakes and he made a fortune by the venture.

which are wanted down there, will quickly multiply themselves. Only a short time ago an enterprising Philadelphian thought of taking a cargo of ordinary kitchen cook stoves to Buenos Ayres. They went off like hot cakes and he made a fortune by the venture.

RIGID LINES OF CASTE.

Although merchants in South America rank high in the social scale, trade, in the sense of shopkeeping is looked down upon. Nowhere in the world are the lines of caste drawn more in the world are the lines of their drawlee habits are unable to manage their famil ments are served. These are the only enter-tainments of importance given in South Amer-ica. Perhaps this is fortunate for the chape-rons, whose feeling of responsibility for their charges at such times must be very acute. The maiden who is waltzing must be watched lest perchance she is being too tightly held and if a young couple should disappear for a moment behind a curtain the officiating dragon must be ready to pounce upon them without a min-ute's delay.

ute's delay.

The theaters of South America are the finest The theaters of South America are the finest in the world. An opera house is at present going up in Rio which will be the most gorgeous and complete in existence. In that country people pay more money to actors and singers than managers in the United States can afford to give, consequently they secure talent for their play houses such as we do not get. They demand whatever is best in the way of amount and are willing to compenway of amusement, and are willing to compensate the performers liberally. The latter usually receive superb gifts, and it is a common thing for the spectators who are pleased with a player or dancing girl to throw upon the stage gold and wads of paper money. THE COST OF LIVING.

Living in South America costs about as muc as it does in this country. Wherever you go a given amount of comfort or luxury is purcha able for the same money. Rents are dear in Buenos Ayres and meats and vegetables are cheap. In the other republies marketing is dearer and house rent is cheaper. Fish is always the most expensive thing you can buy, dried codfish fetching 60 cents a pound. The best fish are saved for the priests. As for the houses, they are very beautiful, but are by no means so comfortable as dwellings of less pretension in the United States. The bath room is a feature of every South American residence.

DEATH A GREAT EVENT.

WOMEN OF THE SOUTH

Whispers: "Isn't she a beauty?" "Here's the queen of the walk!" murmurs a third. Perhaps you suppose that the women are offended at being greatly. These are, in fact, the only compliments they ever have a chance to listen to. Ladies from other countries do not like them so much. Not very long ago the scrawny daughter of a Yankee clergyman was so outraged in her feelings at being spoken to in this admiring way by a fashionable gosling in Buenes Ayres that she promptly jabbed one of his eyes out with her parasol.

SPANISH MORALS.

Notwithstanding the strictness with which the Called and Indian all the content of the first class, which is very swell indeed, with a gold and stiver chariot, fancy indeed, with a gold and stiver chariot, fancy for the deceased. The death notices are pasted to the deceased. The death notices are pasted with its face to the wall. In Brazil all the function of the countries of the recently defunct and pass compliments tray resolutions describing the virtues, &c. of the deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The death notices are pasted up on all the blank walls in town. At the function of the recently defunct and pass compliments tray resolutions describing the virtues, &c. of the deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased of the recently defunct and pass compliments tray resolutions describing the virtues, &c. of the deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased of the recently defunct and pass compliments tray resolutions describing the virtues, &c. of the deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased of the recently defunct and pass compliments tray resolutions describing the virtues, &c. of the deceased. The deceased. The deceased. The deceased of the recently defunct and pass compliments tray resolutions describing the virtues, &c. of the deceased. The deceased. The deceased of the recently defunct and pass compliments tra to the cemetery and dumped out of the box into a hole without so much as a prayer. No women are allowed at funerals, and the hearse high, although as a rule they make good wives and mothers. The function of the duenna is rather to protect the reputation than to preserve the chastity of the mistress. A very different view is taken of wrong-doing between the sexes in these Latin countries from that which prevails here. It is always held in such cases that the man is not at fault, but that the female culprit is wholly guilty, since he would not have sinned without her assent. A Spaniard and gold.

Among the men of South America morals are usually very loose indeed. Often a gentleman who has a family of his own will support other establishments without concealment, and the fact will not be considered seriously to his discredit. Often, even in good society, ladies of reputation will not hesitate to be on intimate rms with women who are in fact kept mis tresses. Offenses against virtue by women are readily condoned and forgotten as a rule. It may be said of the men of this Latin race that they have little respect for the gentler sex or for female chastity. They spend most of their leisure time at their clubs. Gambling is with Gambling is with them a passion. It is a vice that stimulates the languid southern temperament.

# "MAVE ONE WITH ME?"

This Phrase is Heard Less and Less, Year After Year.

From the Cincinnati Commercial Gazett There is less dissipating among the men at watering places than is generally supposed. In fact it may broadly be asserted that there is Venus alone and greatly less dissipation among American men than there was in the past, and furthermore, it grows less and less year by year.

All the work of the temperance fanatics and prohibition cranks who would revolutionize numanity by legal enactment is as nothing compared with the influence of growing selfrespect, education and better breeding.

No one but the professional pessimist or the demagogue fails to recognize the fact and it comes about through a higher average of gentility in the better sense of that ill-treated

As long as men are men they will eat and drink and have fun, but there are gradations in the process, from the bummer who falls in the gutter, or the savage who fills himself with firewater and raw dog, to the gentleman who, in a cafe, takes a drink in good fellowship with some friends, or in his club or his home eats his dinner and comforts himself with a glass or two of wine in pleasant companionship.

Intoxication becomes more and more disgraceful. Among the better classes of men the visiting of public saloons and the standing up drinking at bars is falling more and more

into disrepute.

Another strong influence to this end is that "Is he a drinking .man?" is one of the first

light hair and complexion, and it is said that every family that can afford the luxury keeps posed employe or associate.

This no doubt tends to hold many a man to

disreputable among the "gentry." The great man was the "four-bottle man" and the hero of the occasion at a drinking bout "under the table." All this has not entirely disappearednot by any means—for habits and human na-ture do not change in a day. But there cer-tainly has been a marked alteration for the better. The man who in an assembly of gentlemen at dinner or elsewhere gets drunk make himself obnoxious. He is not applauded; he is not even pitied. He is condemned and his company fought shy of thereafter. In other respects men's habits are improving

From the London Times.

The Reichsanzeiger publishes the text of a bill for the repression of drunkenness, which will be laid before the reichstag on its meeting in November next. Even in a state so essentially police ridden as Germany the measure is drastic one, much more so than any corresponding legislation in England. The bill is accompanied by a long and exhaustive expose des motifs, containing such statistics as the government believe justifies its introduction. from slaves, being handed down from proprietors of or dealers in such human chatters. South America is undoubtedly the place which just now affords the most inviting prospects for energetic young men who are anxious to make fortunes. Of all the republics the Argentine offers the best opportunities in this way. Two things are absolutely requisite, however—some capital and a knowledge of the language. It is astonishing how few people there are in the United States who know any Spanish. The bureau of the American republics not long ago had the greatest difficulty in securing the services of a few men who could read and write in that tongue. In securing the services of a few men who of spiritnous liquors. By clause 9 no spirit could read and write in that tongue. In dealer shall be permitted to sell spirits to any person below the age of sixteen years. They are forbidden to sell liquor to any visibly drunken person or to any person who within three years has been punished as a confirmed drunkard. The spirit dealer is bound to see that drunken persons are conducted to their dwellings or handed over to the care of the police. He is further forbidden to supply

## From the London Globe.

An eminent litterateur, who, like, other jour alists, seems in the season of the big gooseberry-the season, too, described by a leading ublisher as the dullest on record—to suffer from lack of matter for his monthly gossip, has raised, apropos of Mrs. Ireland's new book, the old question of the celibacy of writing the original occupant of the seat, saying men. He says to the matrimonially minded thought her more solidly built than her men. He says to the matrimonially minded virgin, "Don't marry a man of genius." So and on much the same grounds has the author of "Virginibus Pucrisque" spoken. To quote him, "The practice of letters is miserably harassing to the mind; and after an hour or two's work all the more human portion of the author is extinct; he will bully, backbite and speak daggers."

But the doctors differ. A day or two ago I was talking to one of the most eminent and

But the doctors differ. A day or two ago I was talking to one of the most eminent and also one of the busiest of our literary men. I asked him what portion of life he thought most enjoyable. "Those in which I am hard at work," he answered, without a moment's hesitation. "And does it not make you feel nervous and trritable?" was my next query. "Not at all," he replied; "on the contrary, a spell of composition exhibitates me like the drinking of champagne. I never feel depressed or gloomy except when idle." One fancies that Sir Walter Scott did not make a bad husband, and he worked about as hard as most men. Depend upon it, the marriage of a literary man is as much a lottery as any other wedding.

### ton Trenscript.

Young wife-"You used to pretend to think the world of me, Harry; now you go away every morning without offering to kiss me."

Fichic husband—"That's all right, Jenny. You see I don't wast to do anything which shall make you happy to have me go away."

Juster JUPITER AND THE MOON

Few Facts in Regard to the Pres

DIFFERENCE IN DIAMETER BETWEEN THE TWO PLANETS-VARIATIONS IN HEAT AND LIGHT AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTANCES FROM THE SUN-ILLUSIONS AS TO THE MOON'S DAILY REVOLU-

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS BASED I upon the theory that a little knowledge (of astronomy) is not a dangerous but a safe and profitable thing.

Every one-even the dogs has seen the grand celestial exhibit afforded nightly during the past few weeks, and it is gratifying to know a portion of it will be "on the bills" for a considerable time longer. It is a pity, however, that the show has been and always will be free, since the average human appreciates that least which costs him nothing.

The present aspiring rival of the moon in brightness is Jupiter, the "giant" among the eight planets, and which is nightly visible outranks Sirius, the most brilliant of all the millions of fixed stars.

The earth's distance from the sun is 92,500,-000 miles, and she trav-

Moor's Orbit around the Earth and Sun erses her orbit in a year. \_ but Jupiter's average distance from the sun is 483,000,000 miles and he requires nearly twelve years to complete his enormous circuit. The diameter of our "big little" globe is some 8,000 miles, but Jupiter proudly boasts of a diameter nearly eleven times greater, towit, 86,500 miles. The accompanying figure exhibits the relative magnitude of Jupiter and the other planets as well as our moon. The earth revolves on its

Written for The Evening Star.
IN THE RAILROAD CAR,

Single.

Things That Influence Bachelors to Re

traveling: for, it will be remembered, he was very fond of talking with strangers, wisely re-flecting that if they knew more than he they would impart useful information to him, and that if he knew more than they he could teach them. An ordinary passenger coach offers a fine field for this species of intercourse. There you will always find the individual who insists RAILROAD SELFISHNESS-THE WOMAN WHO HAD TWO TICKETS-COMING HOME BY HUNDREDS-WHEN A JOURNEY IS DISAGREEABLE-BABIES AS TRAVELERS.

TRAVELERS.

66 CONGRATULATE YOU," SAID A writer for The Star to a young man whom he met on the street last week.

"Congratulate me? How?"

"I hear you are engaged."

upon maintaining silence. There are the two men who form an intimate acquaintance in a few hours, exchange cards and never meet again. There is the young man who is bent on "making a mash," and sometimes gets kicked for his pains. There is the other young man who helps a female in distress without any sinister intent and thereby, perhans, meets his future wife. There is the perhaps, meets his future wife. There is the "traveling man," who knows everything, has "No, I'm not."

"Why, that's strange. Somebody told me "Why, that's strange. Somebody told me you had owned the soft impeachment."

"That's just the trouble," said he. "I don't consider it a soft impeachment. Shall I tell you about it? Well, I very nearly was engaged, but I went away a few days ago, and coming back met a number of families returning to man, who travels hundreds of miles without so much as the smallest gripsack to keep him communch as the smallest gripsack to keep him communication.

meanness, but of perjury as well.

"Won't you please move up?" said a gentleman on his way home to Washington to one of these individuals the other day.

"No!" growled the man. "You can take may escape the disagreeableness of the house that is being put to rights, but it isn't creditable to them to do this. some other seat.
"But I want this one."

"But I want this one."

"Well, you can't have it."

The Washingtonian didn't take another seat, nor did he call the conductor, but being rather quick of temper he seized the selfish man who wanted to bully him by the coat collar and jerked him into the aisle.

"Now," he said, "go and find another seat yourself or I'll throw you off the platform," and he looked guite caruphle of doing it."

"What Against Boating.

He Was Against Boating.

From the Detroit Free Press.

A young fellow on Hastings street is a member of a boat club and his father is dead down on that sort of business. Yesterday he struck the old gentleman for \$1 for dues.

"What the mischief do you stay in a boat "It is curious to note," he remarked, "how feeland be looked quite capable of doing it.

A WOMAN WHO SPREAD.

Everybody in the car expected a lively set-to but a mean man is apt to be a cowardly one, and this fellow slunk away into another car But when it is a woman that keeps a whole seat But when it is a woman that keeps a whole seat to herself it is a difficult thing to do anything with her. The writer saw an instance of this recently. She was portly, not to say rotund, and in the ordinary course of nature required more room than the usual man, but she was perfectly able to compress herself within a reasonable area, if she chose to do so. On the contrary she preferred to spread. She kept her seat until there were two people in every other seat in the car and several men standing her seat until there were two people in every other seat in the car and several men standing up. When the train was pretty near Washington another portly woman boarded it. She took a rapid glance over the field and made directly for the only vacant space. The men in the car looked on, for there was now going to be an interesting encounter between Greek and Greek. The portly female who had just got on smiled upon the portly woman who had spread over the seat.

"I guess I'll sit here," said the one.

"I guess you won't do any such a thing," said the other.

"I won't, won't I? You'll see if I won't," and down she sat half on the seat and half on

the other woman's lap.

That a lively "scrapping" match was about to ensue scemed more than probable. One man on the car likened the pair to Kilrain and Sullivan and offered to take odds in favor of rersary. Nevertheless, as matters stood, the new comer was on top. "Call the conductor and have this old woman taken away," cried both the ladies in a breath.

The conductor was called and the comba

ants improved the interval before his arrival by shrill abuse of one another. When the conductor came no scratches had as yet been inflicted. He was a polite man, as most conductors are, and he came upon the scene decorously, but with determination in his eye. To the lady who was being ast on he explained that, as she only had one ticket, she was not entitled to occupy the space which two people might sit in, and that the company's rules required her to move up.

"Suppose I've got two tickets, Mr. Conductor, what then?" she said defiantly.

"Why, I suppose, madam, you would have a right to both seats."

"Well, then, just look here. I've kept that second ticket, but if this old woman is going to share my seat I'll give it up," and she produced a second ticket. ants improved the interval before his arrival

produced a second ticket.

Of course the triumphed. Her late antago nist was led away in a tearful condition and given a seat in another car, and the conductor as he took her ticket, declared that it was the first case he had ever known of one person being provided with two tickets.

MUNAN NATURE ON A RAILBOAD CAR.

There is much human nature to be

axis once in twenty-four hours, but Jupiter, the solar system. (That the Romans gave he

one-twenty-seventh as intense as on the earth, yet it is thought to be hot by reasen of con-With an opera glass one may readily distinguish them diligently traveling around the mighty orb, in periods ranging from forty-two hours to sixteen and two-thirds days. Think what a grand spectacle it would be for us to behold one dark and three bright moons racing around us at so enormous a speed, with one exception at a less distance in space than our own satellite. But we may console ourselves

a - Earth's Orbit

6 - Moon's Orbit

C - Earth

d - Moon

were alive now he would be in his element

are some married men who shirk the trouble of transporting a family home altogether, and even go away from the city in order that they

burg, I think) drew attention to the unseen

dangers lurking in the mouthpieces of public

More recently a Prussian doctor has found

out that those wretched things could be trans-mitted for miles and miles along the tele-phones.

phones.

And now (so "Paper Trade" says) it seems Dr. L. B. Clifton, the Macon scientist, has detected a peculiar parasite which infects our paper money. "It is found nowhere else, and though it is invisible to the unassisted eye the small creature multiplies at a surprising rate and is very numerous. Dr. Clifton counted 3,000 of them on an old five-dollar bill. He said the money parasite is an accurate and closely re-

the money parasite is an acarus and closely re-lated to the spider family. Its appearance is by no means handsome. In shape it is oblong and flat and has four clumsy legs and a sharp bill. It is never known to leave the paper on which it lives and never becomes a parasite on the human body."

From the Hartford Post.

A timid man, living alone in the outskirts of

the city, has hit upon a novel device for scaring away burglars. Each night upon retiring he

telephones.

despite his great size, turns on his axis once in every nine hours and fifty-five minutes—a speed greater than is attained by any other planet. His surface area is 119 and the bulk 1,300 times that of the earth, or more than all the other lanets taken together.

that name—perhaps because size is required that name—perhaps because size is required to the distribution of the distribution of the earth, and one seventy-mil-magnitude of the earth. lionth that of the sun (whose diameter is one-twenty-seventh as intense as on the earth, yet it is thought to be hot by reasen of condensation of its mass. Unlike our poorearth Jupiter is well attended, having four large satellites or moons, discovered by Gaitleo in January, 1610. Their distances range from 262,000 to 169,000 miles, and the largest has a diameter of 3,600 miles and the smallest 2,000. Three of those moons are bright and the fourth dark. With an opera glass one may readily distance than one side of her round face to the gaze of man, and the only consolation left us.

> rate of thirty times the two motions and on the whole must be regarded as a fast traveler. The accompanying cut shows her path relative to the earth and sun. How few even of well-educated persons know that, while she appears to travel from east to west, in reality she passes from west to east. This fillusion is, of course, due to the earth's faster rotation

LADY WOLSELRY.

Another Charming American Lady at Hom in England.

The beautiful old demesne of Wolseley, says a writer in the London Lady's Pictorial, lies far away from the busy haunts of workday London, hidden behind its own thickly wooded upon talking and the individual who insists lands in peaceful Staffordshire, shelters wooded upon maintaining silence. There are the two one side by the sylven features of Council. one side by the sylvan fastness of Cannock Chase, and still further evironed by the gently flowing, rippling, brown waters of the River Trent.

> Very few families, even in England's annals, can show so ancient a pedigree or boast such an unbroken descent of land and title, reaching back consecutively for close on a thousand years.

"That's just the trouble," said he. "I don't consider it a soft impeachment. Shall I tell you about it? Well, I very nearly was engaged, but I went away a few days ago, and coming back met a number of families returning to Washington from their summer country residences. It was about 9 o'clock in the evening. The weather was hot and the railroad car was crowded. The connubial trials that I saw on that car were too many for me, so I just backed out in time from my engagement, and behold I am still a free man. I know I have lost a good deal, but at the same time I think I have escaped a good deal more."

WHEN A JOURNEY IS DISAGREABLE.

This young man is selfish, there is no doubt, but it cannot be denied that a journey underside the consideration of the connection of the connection of the cannot be denied that a journey underside the consideration of the consideration of the consideration of the consideration of the connection of the connection of the consideration of the considerati only in degree to that of its

but it cannot be denied that a journey undertaken with three or four tired, crying children, a canary bird, a globe with gold fish in it, a flower pot, a velocipede, a lunch basket, a dozen or so umbrellas, several grip sacks, a nurse or two, six newspaper bundles without handles, a pussy cat in a basket, beside a score or more of lesser articles—it cannot be denied that a bachelor seeing a party of this kind on a railroad car congratulates himself upon his lonely condition and doesn't relish being constratulated upon a prospective change of his condition.

RAILROAD SELFISHNESS.

The railroad car is a great place for manifestations of selfsinness anyhow. First of all there are those individuals who persist in complying an entire seat no matter how crowded the car may be. They stretch them as leves and spread themselves and will continue to do so while a woman stands up. Nothing will make these wretches move except a severe will make the sea of them and sometimes they seemely inform a passenger who is about to do so while a woman stands up. Nothing the provided of the provided the provide order" under the great cedar trees, preparatory
to beating the reveille. She is, moreover, a
past mistress in the gentle craft of needlework,
an art but little practiced nowadays, and a
most devoted mother to her two delightful
fair-haired baby boys, the oldest of whom, the
little son and heir, is called Edrie, in honor of

"What the mischief do you stay in a boat club for?" he asked in no very good humor.

"Why, father," exclaimed the youngster, "it is a nice club and we are going along finely."

"Bosh!"

"So I heard," sumpped the old man. "In the first one you rowed against the current and beat it half a mile in two hours. The next one you rowed against the bank and stuck there. That's the kind of races you row in and you make me tired. Here's your \$1 and I hope it will be the last one you ask me for."

A Paper-Money Parasite.

From American Notes and Queries.

A few years ago quite a sensation was created in Europe when a medical man (in St. Petershunders) hurs. I think down attention to the production of his marvelous work, and in that the intermental or physical." "That was hardly the case," I responded, "with Victor Hugo, who lived to be past eighty and was always as sturdy as an oak." "But you forget, madame, burs. I think) down attention to the production of a family of maniers." was the "It is curious to note," he remarked, "how feelsturdy as an oak." "But you forget, madame, that he came of a family of maniscs," was the response. "His brother died insane and his daughter is at this moment the inmate of an axilon for location."

asylum for lunaties." He Learned Life's Leason B

Prom the Irish Times.
A little grand nephew of Prince Bismarck was sitting on the prince's knee one day when h suddenly cried out: "Oh, uncie! I hope I shall be a great m like you when I grow up."

"Why, my child?" asked his uncle. "Because you are so great, and every on fears you."

"Wouldn't you rather every one loved you?"

The child thoughta lattle and then replied "No, uncle; for when people love you the cheat you, and when they fear you they let yo cheat them."

prices current two weeks ago. The crop has cured in perfect shape and sales are being made mostly at from 18 to 30 cents per pound for the entire crop, to be delivered in the

THOSE RELIABLE HORSE ADVERTISEMENTS.

